



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

## TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

### MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Feabhra / February  
2022



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# FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

## CORPORATE SERVICES



### Freedom of Information and Data Protection

#### 2022 Year to date Statistics to 31/01/2022

- 10 Freedom of Information Requests
- 2 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 0 Appeals to Information Commissioner
  
- 2 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 0 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request, e.g. Gardaí.

### Record Management

The Records Management Team continues to facilitate daily requests from all departments for file storage and retrieval from the record centre.

Records Management is currently working with different departments in the destruction of files in line with the National Retention policy for local authorities.

Implementation of the ADLIB Archives and Records Management database system has been completed.

### Register of Electors

The 2022/2023 Register has now been published and will be effective from 15th February 2022 to 14th February 2023. In the event of any elections or referenda being held during this period this is the Register which will be used in the polling stations.

If an election or referendum are held, a supplement to the current 2022/2023 Register will be compiled. This will be used in conjunction with the current 2022/2023 Register of Electors at the Polling Stations.

### Communications

The Communications Office communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of issues of local and national interest. Media releases issued during January 2022 included:

- Launch of new plan for Killaloe-Ballina
- Council welcomes RRDF funding for Scarriff Regeneration Project
- Púca of Ennistymon to be relocated
- Council publishes results of Ennis pedestrianisation survey
- Shannon Town Centre Masterplan unanimously endorsed by Shannon MD Elected Members.

### Print and Graphic Design

The print and graphic design service continues to provide services including layout and production of posters and signage, forms, certificates and booklets.

### Irish Language

January has seen signage and other translations, along with the addition of Irish language teaching sessions to the Staff and Councillor Extranet sites.

Planning is now underway for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022, with confidence that we will be able to organise in-person events. Assistance for individuals/groups seeking Irish language grants is now available from the Irish Language Officer.

### Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In January, the Communications Office:



- Posted 36 times on Facebook, with total followers now 16,550, with 14,928 page likes. Posts earned 151,216 impressions with 7,144 engagements.



- Posted 40 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,525. Tweets earned 109,065 impressions and 2,264 engagements.



- Posted 2 times on Instagram with followers now 2,383.

### Procurement

The following tender competitions were published in the period from 18th December 2021 to 28th January 2022 incl.

Short description	Notice published
Integrated Technical Due Diligence Assessment Consultancy Services Team for Shannon Heritage TDD	22/12/2021

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
<b>Recruitment</b>	<p><b>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during January:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Library Assistant - 13 Candidates Interviewed</li> <li>• Librarian - 11 Candidates Interviewed</li> <li>• Sporadic School Warden Cover (Ennis, West Clare &amp; Shannon) - 5 Candidates Interviewed</li> <li>• Temporary Harbour Controller – Doolin Pier (Tourist Season) - 4 Candidates Interviewed.</li> </ul> <p><b>The following competitions were advertised:</b></p> <p>Open Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retained Part-time Fire-Fighters (Ennistymon, Killaloe, Scariff &amp; Shannon) Panel</li> <li>• Fitter Plumber Panel</li> <li>• Assistant Scientist Panel</li> <li>• Senior Executive Technician (initial assignment to Environment) Panel</li> <li>• Executive Engineer Panel</li> <li>• Beach Lifeguard &amp; Senior Beach Lifeguard Panel 2022</li> <li>• School Warden Part-time &amp; Sporadic Cover, West Clare MD Panel</li> <li>• Apprentice Heavy Vehicle Mechanic (4 Year Apprenticeship Programme) Panel.</li> </ul>
<b>Learning and Development</b>	<p><b>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in January include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Aid</li> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• 3-Day SLG Roadworks</li> <li>• SLG Update Talks</li> <li>• Safe Pass</li> </ul> <p><b>Essential Skillz online courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti Bribery</li> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Ergowize</li> <li>• GDPR</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Induction</li> <li>• Manual Handling</li> <li>• Working in a Covid Era</li> </ul>
<b>Employee Welfare</b>	<p>Employee Welfare supports are provided to staff on an ongoing basis.</p>
<b>Covid-19</b>	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary regarding Covid-19 matters.</p>
<b>Unions</b>	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to engage and consult with Unions on various matters.</p>

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme

The Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme was launched in December 2021 by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, to support social enterprises with their capital costs. Grants are being provided under the Scheme, which is funded from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The Social Enterprises Capital Grants Scheme will provide small grants to social enterprises to assist them in carrying out renovations or repairs to their premises. The grants will be administered on behalf of the Department by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

Nationally, the funding will assist almost 250 social enterprises with specific costs in relation to their facilities. Clare LCDC has received €29,304 in funding for 7 social enterprise projects around the county.

Successful applicants include:

- Shannon Swimming and Leisure Centre Ltd
- The Burren Centre, Kilfenora
- Kilmihill People's Park
- Kilkee Waterworld
- Radio Corca Baiscinn
- Mna Ag Gaire, Women's Shed, Ennis
- Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Corbally.

This particular scheme will support one of the key policy commitments in the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland – "Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise". And it also supports the objectives of 'Our Rural Future', the Government's ambitious five-year strategy for rural Ireland. Our social enterprises are at the heart of that strategy.

### Social Enterprises

Social enterprises are businesses that work primarily to improve the lives of people. Their core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact. Like other businesses, social enterprises pursue their objectives by trading in goods and services on an ongoing basis.

However, surpluses generated by social enterprises are re-invested into achieving their core social objectives, rather than maximising profit for their owners. They frequently work to support disadvantaged groups such as the long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, the Traveller community, etc., or to address issues such as food poverty, social housing, or environmental matters.

### National Social Enterprise Policy

Ireland's first National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development on 18 July 2019, with the objective of creating an enabling environment for social enterprise to grow and contribute more fully to Ireland's social and economic progress. The Policy is focused on three main objectives:

1. Building Awareness of Social Enterprise
2. Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise
3. Achieving Better Policy Alignment.



## Púca Of Ennistymon To Be Relocated

Following extensive consultation with Elected Members and the local community, Clare County Council has confirmed it will not be proceeding with a proposal to erect the Púca of Ennistymon artwork in the North Clare town. The public art sculpture, which is inspired by Irish folklore and the locality's equine heritage, will instead be offered to other North Clare towns, villages and community operated tourism sites through an Expressions of Interest process to be announced shortly.

The Púca was commissioned in early 2021 having been among 18 submissions received following the advertising of an artist's brief. The artwork forms part of a significant capital project investment to increase visitor dwell time in Ennistymon and further enhance the overall appearance of the town. Fáilte Ireland allocated €500,000 towards the now nearly completed capital project under the Destination Towns Programme, with the Local Authority providing an additional 25% match funding.

Following representations by Elected Members and the local community, Clare County Council undertook a survey in November 2021 to garner local opinion on the artwork and its proposed location. More than 720 survey responses were received by the local authority with 43.6% of respondents saying they 'Really disliked' the artwork compared to 34.3% who 'Really liked' it. While many disliked both the artwork itself and its proposed location in the town, a proportion of submissions were divided between the two.

In a meeting with Elected Members, Clare County Council confirmed it would not be proceeding with plans to install the artwork in Ennistymon.

The Local Authority has proposed to relocate the art piece within the North Clare Electoral Area and that expressions of interest will shortly be invited from community groups with a link to tourism. Meanwhile, it has also been proposed that a new art piece for the Ennistymon project will be developed through a full public consultation process.

## Promotional Video for the Geopark: What is a Geopark?

Throughout the Winter months, the Geopark team worked closely with the Burren Ecotourism Network on the development of a Geopark promotional video. The aim for this video was to describe what a Geopark is in a simple and compelling manner. After some creative brainstorming sessions, and several revised video drafts, the objective was successfully achieved.

Video at: <https://vimeo.com/670685306/89d3ba04b0>

The team decided to have the children narrate the videos as they are the true stakeholders of the actions that we take in the Geopark today. They wanted the children and their audience to understand that there is a special range of elements in the region that allow it to be designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark. Such elements include geology, archaeology, culture, heritage, flora and fauna, farming and more. The children playing together in the schoolyard at the end of the video signifies



how these elements of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark come together to make a region to be proud of.

The team would like to give a special thank you to the stars of the video, the children of Fanore National School, and their teacher (their producer).

## Marketing and Promotion

The Tourism Department's 'Visit Clare Strategic Marketing Plan for 2022' is being prepared in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and the Tourism Advisory Forum.

The Visit Clare social media started in earnest to bring the focus of holiday planning to Clare with the 'Make A Date with Clare' campaign, highlighting the key assets and attractors of the county.

## Visit Clare Tourism Newsletter

The Tourism Department developed a Visit Clare Tourism Newsletter, the January 2022 edition of Tourism News, Views and Opportunities can be viewed online.

It is packed with useful information. Please note we can only send future editions of this newsletter electronically if you opt-in to receive it. The newsletter will only be sent occasionally, and you can opt-out at any time. Opting-in is essential: here is the opt-in link [www.visitclare.ie/signup](http://www.visitclare.ie/signup) required if you wish to receive future Clare Tourism newsletters. Email addresses must be unique. For example, two people cannot sign up to 'info@mybusiness.com'



Left: A site visit introducing new Head of Operations Colette Costelloe for Vandeleur Walled Gardens. Colette will liaise greatly with Head of Commercial Services, West Clare MD, Tourism Department and PM Ruth Hurley as this flagship RRDF project will be expected to be completed and opened in late 2022.

## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



New pedestrian crossing in Boston, ensuring safe access to National School.



Miltown Malbay Church Car Park works, supported by The Ireland Funds.



Jacqueline O'Reilly-McCoy, Lisdoonvarna, and Tony Cogan, Miltown Malbay, being presented with their ceramic artworks for their Acts of Kindness in their communities during Covid-19. The series of ceramic artworks were created by Ann McBride and were gifted to those who shone a light in Clare during Covid-19. They were commissioned by the Clare Arts Office with support from Creative Ireland.



Miltown Malbay Church Street road improvement works.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## HOUSING

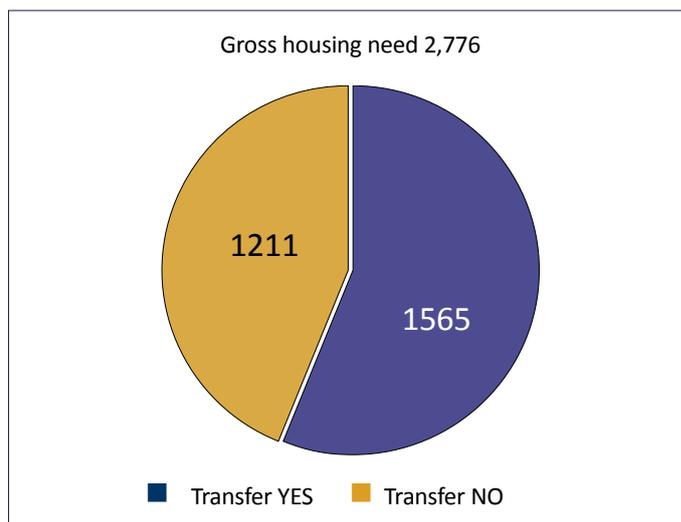
January was once again a busy month necessitating responses to an ever-changing environment. We begin February with hope that the pandemic is behind us; that said, we will bring our learnings from the pandemic into the return to 'normal' work practices.

The housing public counter remains open to the public without appointment from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Housing maintenance was impacted by staff shortage for a period and we are working on addressing any backlog that has arisen from the 427 housing maintenance calls received during January.

The Tenancy Enforcement Officers remain very active on the ground and have already this year undertaken ~400 routine and response calls to tenants. Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing [asb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:asb@clarecoco.ie). The working hours of the TEO team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The TEO team can be contacted out of office hours by contacting the Council

emergency phone no: (087) 4169496

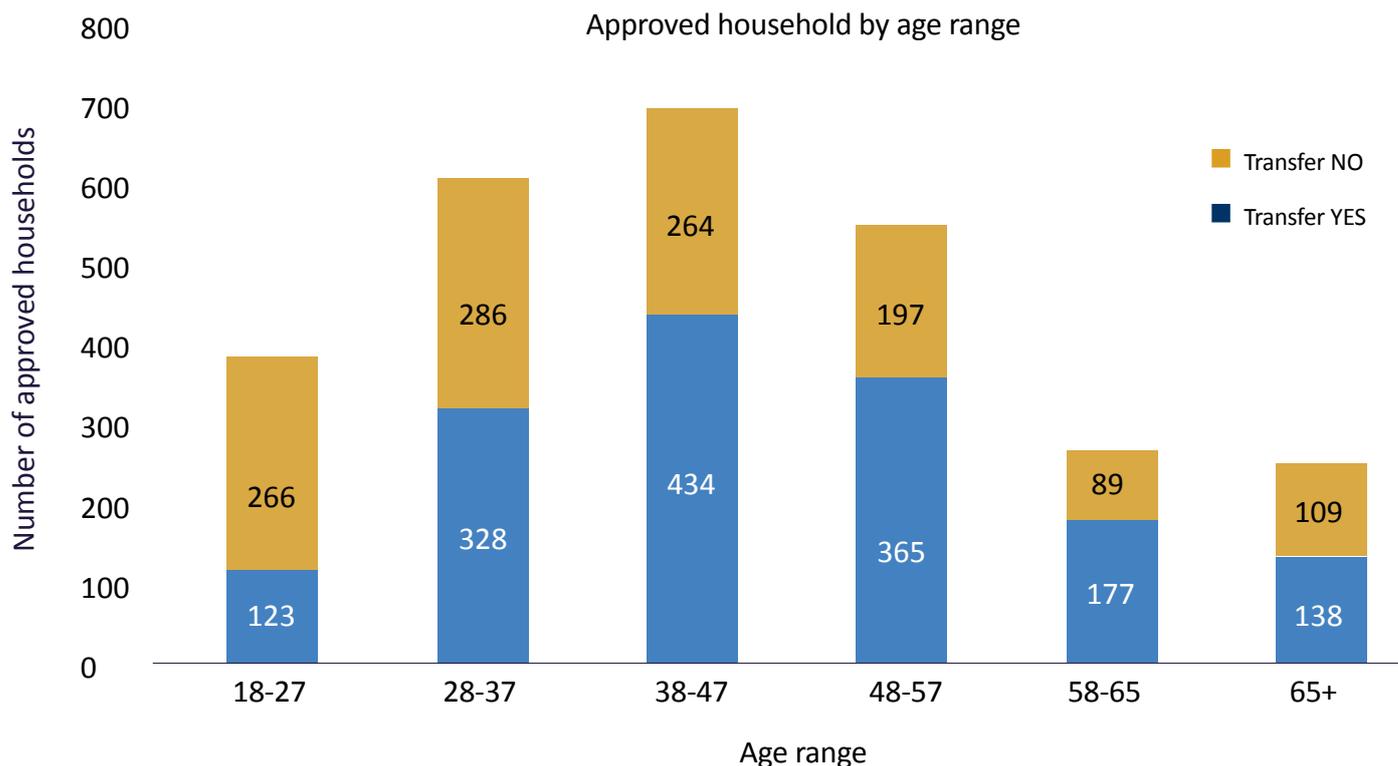
Housing need as of 31/01/2022



Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE (only)	BEDS APPROVED					Grand Total
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	
CLARECASTLE		128	26	11	1	166
CLONLARA		13	6	1		20
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	2	31	9	1		43
COROFIN/RUAN		47	21	2		70
ENNIS	5	900	189	67	2	1163
ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH		127	28	4		159
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE		114	28	5		147
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY		25	3	2		30
KILFENORA		6	2			8
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT		67	10	1		78
KILLALOE		51	8	3		62
KILMALEY		9	3			12
KILMIHIL		10	6	2		18
KILRUSH		89	29	8		126
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN		37	8	3		48
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY		77	39	10		126
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY		67	11	7		85
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS		66	13	4		83
QUIN		16	8	1		25
SHANNON		173	20	13		206
SIXMILEBRIDGE		38	6	7		51
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD		37	8	2		47
*unspecified		2	1			3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2128</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2776</b>

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



BASIS OF NEED	BEDS APPROVED					Grand Total
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	
Concluded that Mortgage is uns		25	2	6		33
Currently Dependent on Rent Su	1	1252	348	77	1	1679
Disability requirement - intel	3	73	3	4		83
Disability requirement - menta		60	6	2		68
Disability requirement - physi	1	110	16			127
Disability requirement - senso		3	3			6
Exceptional Medical or Compass		62	16	16		94
Homeless, Institution, Emergen	1	86	17	2		106
Involuntary Sharing	1	305	36	7		349
Overcrowded		72	27	29	2	130
Unfit		31	3	5		39
Unsuitable - Particular Househ		51	5	6		62
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2130</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2776</b>

### Housing Tenancies

\*Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent):

Grant type	PROPERTY STATUS			
	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Ennis MD	3	1,176	31	1,210
Killaloe MD	2	372	6	380
West Clare MD	7	931	36	974
Shannon MD	1	613	11	625
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3,092</b>	<b>84*</b>	<b>3,189</b>

Vacant stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD
Traveller accommodation	4	6	2	0
Derelict properties	0	8	0	0
Casual vacancies	27	22	9	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>

Average cost of returning casual vacancies to stock in January was €31,113 with an average vacancy period of 118 days.

### Tenancies

<b>2634</b> LA stock tenancies	<b>1344</b> HAP tenancies
<b>184</b> RAS tenancies	<b>254</b> Leased properties

### Private Rented inspections

In January the Council received a target of 1,282 of private rented inspections to be undertaken during 2022. This target is based on RTB tenancies register which indicates there are 5,128 registered tenancies in Clare as of 1st June, 2021. It is likely this figure will be recalculated as the RTB undertake data cleansing on the database during 2022. There remains an inherent nervousness with tenants in permitting private rented inspections and to that end we continue to work with tenants and landlords in supporting them in the inspection process. In January we invited 20 landlords to part-take in our Virtual Inspections Programme and we carried out 3 physical inspections of properties. A significant ramping up of inspections is necessary to achieve the target set for 2022.

### Housing Grants:

Grants Approved for January 2022

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	1	1,665
Housing Aid for Older People	4	13,800
Mobility Aids Grant	5	21,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>36,465</b>

### Local Authority Home Loan

The Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan on 4th January, 2022. The Scheme is for the purchase of new or second-hand residential properties and for self-builds. It includes the purchase of homes through state schemes such as the Tenant Purchase Scheme. A 'Fresh Start' principle applies to the Local Authority Home Loan. This means that people who are divorced or separated and have no financial interest in the family home, or who have undergone personal insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or other legal process, are eligible to apply.

Under the Loan, there are two Interest Rate options currently available:

- 2.495% fixed for up to 25 years (APR 2.52%)\*
- 2.745% fixed for up to 30 years (APR 2.78%)\*

Full details on eligibility criteria as well as a Loan Calculator and

Information Booklet can be found on [www.localauthorityhome-loan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhome-loan.ie)

<b>1</b> Applications	<b>0</b> Approvals	2022 To 25/01/2022
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### Homeless

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291.

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 17th December, 2021, to 21st January, 2022: 6 households exited from homeless services; of these 6 households 1 was housed in own door properties through Housing First Project, 1 self discharged to return to family, 1 housed by LA, 2 housed through HAP, 1 discharged from services.

Homeless presentations from 17th December, 2021, to 21st January, 2022:

New presentations	30
Repeat presentations	120
<b>Total Presentations</b>	<b>150</b>

### Status as of 21st January, 2022

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	11	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	7	10	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Ashford Court	8	12	11	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	5	0	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>

### Vacant properties

The Vacant homes unit is continuing to seek ownership details on a number of properties that have been identified as potential long-term vacant residential dwellings in each MD. The Capital team has carried out inspections on 3 potential properties during January.

Entries by members of the public on the website 'vacanthomes.ie' are investigated and assessed for suitability.

### Status as at 24/01/2022

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	2		2
Killaloe	8		
West Clare	7	3	1
Shannon	1		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Update on capital programme

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Shauntraud Woods, Killaloe	4	Turnkey nearing completion.	-	Q1 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q2 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Part VIII Decision – 14th Feb. 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII under Judicial Review.	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Clarecastle	2	4 Stage application to issue to DHLGH.	Q2 2022	Q1 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Await determination by ABP.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>226</b>			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V – sale to close shortly.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Under construction  9 to be delivered Q4 2022 15 to be delivered Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	55	CALF Turnkey (14 units delivered in Q4 2021) 15 units to be delivered in Q1 2022 40 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q2 2021 Q4 2021	Q1 2022 Q3 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey – construction to commences	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVerry Trust)	14	CAS Turnkey – Department approval received	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>135</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>361</b>			

## SPORTS &amp; RECREATION



### Clare Sports Partnership

Clare Sports Partnership continue to work with clubs and the community in the active participation in sport in the county. For further details on activities please check out [www.clare-sports.ie](http://www.clare-sports.ie)



### Funding applications 2022

CSP has applied to Sport Ireland for two Grassroots Restart Funds (funding to support the resumption of sport and physical activity).

One project these funds will go towards a Referee and Official Recruitment and Retention programme - The aim of the initiative is to provide support to enhance the recruitment and retention referees and officials across the following NGBs in County Clare; Soccer, Rugby, Athletics, Basketball, GAA, LGFA and Camogie. The goal of this initiative is to create a suite of supports for new and existing referees and officials. Clare LSP will work with each partner to identify the needs of each partner and potentially develop and roll-out suitable programmes thus ensuring the long-term sustainability of qualified and dedicated referees and officials within each NGB.

The second project these funds will support is a Clare Sport for All Expo – this event is being proposed in a bid to raise awareness of grassroots sports. The aim is to provide opportunities for all ages and abilities to resume and experience the range of sporting/physical activities available throughout the county post COVID. It will provide the opportunity for individuals of all ages and abilities to become aware of the vast array of differing sports and physical activities on offer within county Clare. Additionally, this will be a fantastic opportunity for clubs/organizations/groups to showcase their sports/ activities/programmes to increase participation, revitalize and restart post pandemic. This Expo will present attendees with a unique opportunity to get a first hand practical taste of sporting activities and reignite a passion for sport/physical activity. The event will take place at Active Ennis, John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road, Ennis, one of the largest outdoor sporting facilities in the county.

### Active Ennis Leisure Complex

The facility is gearing up for full reopening with capacity restrictions in the pool being eased and a return of swimming lessons and other programmes in the facility in the coming weeks. Keep an eye on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie) for further updates.

### Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park, Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road, Active Kilrush Sports Complex & Active Ennis, Cloughleigh

All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with pre-booking essential on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)

Clubs and patrons are reminded to exercise personal responsibility with regard to their safety and the safety of others. All clubs and patrons are requested to leave facilities as they find them.

Any operational issues or queries can be reported by email to [info@activeennis.ie](mailto:info@activeennis.ie)

### Atlantic Youth Project

This 3 year Erasmus+ funded project is back in the news as the Atlantic Youth Project won the award for "International Cooperation" in the Atlantic Project Awards 2021 in a ceremony in Dublin in late October 2021. Clare County Council with our project partners are immensely proud of this award and the achievements of the project.

# CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

## Clare County Library



Painting a picture with the new Tovertafel in Kilrush Library.

Clare Library partnered with the LCETB in accommodating the installation and provision of a Tovertafel in Kilrush Library recently. A Tovertafel is a fun care innovation, which was designed for use in many healthcare settings and is beneficial for people with dementia, autism and learning disabilities. The Tovertafel itself is essentially a ceiling-based projector that shines multicoloured lights onto a flat surface. The people using the facility sit under the projector and respond to the lights - which in turn responds to their hand and arm movements. A variety of games can be played, some of the games can be used to trigger happy memories and reminiscence. The following user-groups are now availing of this resource:

- LCETB tutors and their Child care and Elderly care students
- Brothers of Charity service users
- Activity co-ordinators and residents of Nursing Homes
- Teachers and children from ASD units
- Adults/children from the broader community.

## Online Resources usage for previous month

1,340 E-Books	2,276 E-Audiobooks	852 E-Magazines
282 Online Courses	1,707 Press Reader	28 Transparent Languages

There was a 44% increase in e-audiobooks and 8% increase in e-books usage in 2021 over 2020 figures. Both e-magazines (-16%) and online course usage (-19%) declined in 2021.

## Marketing

Social media stats for previous month.

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/Retweets/Reach	Comments
	7	5459	84	42	20/1277	30
	10	1973	77	32	0	0
	7	1580	71	601	10,880	15

Total number of live events	10
Total number of online events	10
Total attendances at live events	50
Total attendances at online events	165



The pupils of Gaelscoil Donncha Rua taking advantage of the winter sunshine to enjoy the Scéal Trail in Shannon Library's sensory garden.

## Right to Read

The 2021 Right to Read activities are currently being evaluated. The Right to Read Network successfully met the objectives of its Action Plan 2021 despite the challenges of COVID restrictions. Two new network members were invited to join the network, which now comprises Clare County Library, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Clare Home School Community Liaison Network, Clare Youth Service and Clare School Completion Programme.

Clare County Library Children's Services successfully delivered the four core literacy and reading programmes for the Right to Read initiative. These are Spring Into Storytime, Summer Stars, Children's Book Festival and Family Time at Your Library. The programmes were a mixture of in-person and online events

facilitated by library staff, authors, poets, artists, musicians, storytellers and health practitioners. A total of 287 events were delivered as part of these programmes and reached 5,960 children and families throughout County Clare. Clare County Library Children's Services also delivered a new element to the Right to Read initiative: The "Little Library Book" Bag. This initiative delivered bags of books to 147 Early Learning and Childcare, and Afterschool centres around County Clare on two occasions in 2021. In addition to these services, bags were also delivered to service users and groups in the Right to Read Network such as the Reception Centres, Ennis Homeless Hub, primary schools and one to one parenting classes.

The Clare Right to Read Action Plan 2022 has been agreed and sent to the National Steering Group for approval.

### Work Matters



Smartphone Refresher Classes with Bernie O'Connor in Shannon Library's new multi-purpose room.

The 2022 Work Matters programme is currently being planned. The Work Matters Co-ordinator also attended an Engineers webinar ahead of the STEPS Engineers Week which will take place in March.

### Healthy Ireland

Tai Chi classes and Chair Yoga classes took place with a total of 73 people attending. Among the participants were residents from Nursing Homes, Day Care centres and Brothers of Charity, together with members of active retirement groups and other individuals.

### Creative Ireland

The Creative Project Awards are currently being advertised with a closing date of 11th February. Applications are invited from individuals and groups who wish to develop creative work in the community. Projects can be submitted through any format, e.g. visual art, film, music, theatre, dance, etc. and may cover the arts and heritage sector. Projects can either be new initiatives or, in the case of projects/programmes of activity currently underway, they should be able to show a marked development in how an award would impact on the local community, in terms

of scale or scope of the project. Details at: [https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/creative\\_ireland.htm](https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/creative_ireland.htm)

### Decade of Centenaries

The Decade of Centenaries Project Awards are currently being advertised with a closing date of 4th February. Applications are encouraged from community groups, historical and commemorative groups and tidy towns groups who wish to commemorate events which happened in Clare during 1922, a complex and sensitive period in our history. This is the penultimate year of the DOC (2012-2023). Funding has been provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme. Further information at: [https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/doc\\_info.htm](https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/doc_info.htm)

### Clare Arts Office



Drawings by students of Doolin NS through the Artist in Schools Scheme

Artist Siobán Fawl began working with 22 people in the Dulick Centre, Ennis, Orchard Centre, Kilrush and North Clare Mental Health through the Embrace Programme for Arts and Different Abilities. David O'Rourke completed a residency with 49 students in Doolin via Zoom through the Artist in Schools Scheme while residencies started with 12 students in Clohanbeg NS and with 22 students in St Anne's Special School.

Clare Arts Office assisted with 2 filming requests for productions in Bunratty and the Cliffs of Moher. Clare was selected as a model of excellence in the commissioning of public art and provided case studies to the Arts Council for present to the National Public Art Committee – an inter-departmental public art working group. In conjunction with Arts Offices in Limerick and Clare held a Climate Change workshop for visual artists online with Visual Artists Ireland. Clare Arts Office issued a call for 3 art commissions to take place as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme. Three exhibitions took place in Scariff, Ennis and Kilkee.

Clare Arts Office has established a new monthly newsletter. Clare Arts Office has been active on social media with 192 posts that received 59 comments. Social media groups had

557 reactions to posts, and the social media pages had a reach of 9,736 generating 787 post engagements. Four events were added to the Arts Office website.

### Clare Museum

Sensor lights have been put in the museum’s onsite storeroom and LED lights have been installed. This should help reduce energy costs in relation to that room. The museum has been assessed for a cost-effective way of providing broadband for the museum side of the building.

Research has been carried out on the contents of the 1917 East Clare By-election autograph book, which was scanned late last year. It is intended to display the contents digitally on a screen alongside de Valera’s car, in due course. Two digital screens/story boards are on order for the display. Two-hundred objects were photographed and added to the database collection and 9 social media posts were added to the Museum social media platforms.

### Clare County Archives

#### Processing

The Canon Philip Dwyer Collection dating from 1884-1947 is being prepared currently to be added to the Clare Library photographic archives website. Canon Dwyer was Rector of St Columba’s, Ennis, from 1864-1883, and oversaw a major redevelopment of the church in 1871. The Canon and his family left Ireland in 1883 for Canada where they remained until 1887 when they moved to England, William Dwyer, the Canon’s

son, chose to remain in Canada. It is William and his wife Molly that form the basis of the collection’s letters spanning several decades. Canon Dwyer was also a prominent figure in County Clare during the late 19th century he published *A Handbook to Lisdoonvarna and its Vicinity*, 1876 which was republished in 1998 and The Diocese of Killaloe from the Reformation to the close of the Eighteenth Century, both significant contributions to Clare’s historical record.

The collection will be available on the Clare Library website by the end of January.

#### Queries

Each month the Archives Service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view material in the local studies library from the archives’ collection.

#### Digitisation

The Archives is making an application for funding through Decade of Centenaries in order to digitize the Joseph Barrett collection.

#### The Archives Repository (Buildings and accommodation)

The archive service’s building accommodation needs to be reviewed. The archivist is currently carrying out an inventory of the collections and the pending accruals it is yet to receive and the impact on collections and their preservation and accessibility.

## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Scarriff Office

Killaloe Municipal District continues to provide services via public counter in line with Government guidelines. Services will continue to be in line with Public Health restrictions and advice.

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

The Technical team of the Municipal District are formulating the Schedule of Municipal District works for the forthcoming year. Whilst, the budgets are not announced, the MD will formulate on the assumption of similar funding to 2021.

Councillors will be invited to make comments and observations regarding the 2022 programme.

### Drainage Works

Substantial levels of roadside drainage works are being carried out on our Regional Roads in January/February 2022. These works are to improvement safety on our main routes.

### Active Travel 2021: Killaloe MD Programme

Project	Status
Tulla footpath remediation	Contract Start
Tulla connection to athletics grounds	Going to Tender – January 2021
Droomindoorra	Design complete, Tender preparation
Quin	Contract Start.
Clarisford Park Connection	At Tender
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Works substantially complete

## Council welcomes RRDF funding for Scarriff Regeneration Project



Pictured (l-r): Morgan Lahiffe, Killaloe MD; Seamus Murrhiy, Rural Development Officer, Killaloe MD; Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development and Killaloe Municipal District Co-ordinator; Thomas McMahon, Rural Development; and Urban McMahon, Rural Development.

Clare County Council has welcomed the announcement by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, of funding of €524,000 for the Scarriff Regeneration Project.

The Scarriff Regeneration Project will develop plans for key interventions in the centre of Scarriff that will improve the public realm and provide community, tourism and enterprise facilities in the town centre. It includes the development of a Multi Service Innovation and Engagement Hub and improved public realm for the Market Square in the town centre as well as the development of a Town Car Park.

In preparing its submission Clare County Council recognised the strategic importance of the town of Scarriff to East Clare and the town's role in supporting the objectives of both national and local rural development strategies. Clare County Council welcomes the consultation and collaboration with Scarriff Community Council and Scarriff Town Team and the support of our elected representatives.

The development of this proposal will now be managed by the Killaloe Municipal District (MD) office in partnership with the Rural Development Directorate of Clare County Council. The funding, under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF), is being invested in projects that will rejuvenate town centres, drive economic growth and footfall, combat dereliction, develop pedestrian zones and outdoor spaces and boost tourism in rural Ireland.

It is Clare County Council's intention to progress the Scarriff Regeneration Project immediately to shovel-ready status and enable the Council to be in a position to apply for future Category 1 funding through the RRDF process.

The applications for funding were subjected to a comprehensive assessment process by the Department, with oversight provided by an independent Project Advisory Board, made up of representatives drawn from key Government Departments along with external independent experts.

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Ennis 2040

The Ennis 2040 team are continuing to evaluate sites and have procured survey specialists who are to commence work in February 2022. Procurement of masterplanning consultants has also commenced for several sites.

Ennis 2040 are also working closely with Ennis Municipal District and the NTA on Traffic and Mobility Planning.

### Clare Economic Task Force

The Clare Economic Taskforce met in January and received a presentation from the ESB on how they intend to deliver fixed and floating off-shore wind projects for Clare, the MidWest region and Ireland. They explained their Green Atlantic@Moneypoint project for County Clare which includes grid preparation, off-shore windfarm construction and assembly potential (supply chain) for Moneypoint along with the storage and export of Hydrogen at the plant.

The Taskforce were also updated on the Shannon Town Masterplan implementation plan, anticipated passenger recovery at Shannon Airport and an update on the Future Mobility Campus Ireland development in the Shannon Free Zone. A more comprehensive report to elected members will be made once the project progresses in to planning and implementation stages.

## Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI)

### Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

Further to the announcement in December by Enterprise Ireland on the allocation of €1.75 million for the Kilrush Maritime Training Centre the SEI team have been progressing with an in-depth analysis in terms of the Operational Model, VAT and Corporation Tax which would be applicable to the establishment of the Training Centre. In tandem the potential options in terms of the Agreement Type and Operating Model are also being assessed and analysed for the centre. The final drawings are being completed together with all Planning, Environmental and Flood related reports.

The application for RRDF funding announced in January was unsuccessful and feedback on the application is awaited. The Expressions of Interest process for the preferred operator/partner of the Maritime Training facility continues.

### SIFP for Shannon Estuary

#### Offshore renewable energy

Pre-planning discussions with offshore renewable energy companies currently preparing an Offshore Floating Wind project

off the west coast of Clare are ongoing. Companies are provided with an overview of the SIFP, Clare County Development Plan and the associated Wind and Renewable Energy Strategies in the context of the potential which the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary has to offer offshore wind projects.

Floating wind technology can be installed in deeper waters than fixed wind turbines allowing projects to be placed further offshore, keeping visual and environmental impact to a minimum. The assembly, installation and deployment of offshore wind turbines – if located in the Estuary – could stimulate hundreds of high-quality jobs in the local supply chain. Long-term operations and maintenance of the turbines will also require local skills and services to support this industry. It is in this context that the existing pier and hinterland at Cahiracon is being considered in terms of the potential it offers to the offshore wind supply chain. Cahiracon is identified as a Strategic Development Location in the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary and zoned for Marine Related Industry in the Clare County Development Plan. The potential which both the existing marine infrastructure and the surrounding hinterland offers in terms of proximity to deep water, the commercial shipping lane within the Shannon Estuary together with its proximity to Foynes Port offers significant potential to this sector.

### Cruise Shannon Estuary

Ongoing collaboration with Shannon Foynes Port Company and adjoining Local Authorities, Failte Ireland and other agencies continues under the Cruise Shannon Estuary initiative which seeks to attract sustainable cruise visits to the Shannon Estuary and subsequent tendering of some boats from the cruise ships to County Clare via Cahercon pier.

### Tidal Test Device – Cahercon

The team continues to assist a renewable energy enterprise with the responses for a Foreshore Licence for a Tidal Test Device at Cahercon lodged with the Foreshore unit in 2020. The establishment of Cahercon as a tidal test device location would be of significant benefit for County Clare the Estuary.

### Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

The Shannon Town Centre Masterplan, funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and Project Ireland 2040 was unanimously endorsed by the Elected Members of Shannon Municipal District at a meeting on Tuesday, 18th January, 2022.

The Masterplan sets out a clear strategic framework for the



will have multiple daytime and night-time uses including new Local Authority offices, a Community theatre and library space and an enhanced public realm.

Building on the history of innovation and training in Shannon, the creation of an innovation Campus in the town centre is a unique proposition for any town centre creating the potential for 1,000 employees and 1,500 students providing vitality and life with activity during the day and evenings. Having a large quantity of students and future workers within the town centre Innovation Campus will be a huge boost for supporting the social, educational and economic development of Shannon Town. The Masterplan makes provision for a range of high-quality urban town centre homes, enhancement of connections to the estuary and preservation and enhancement of the amenity of the Town Park, as well as an implementation roadmap for the delivery of the plan.

The improved Main Street will be an innovative take on the traditional main street of Irish towns and will contribute to a sense of place for Shannon. It is proposed to improve and make the existing R471 road passing through Shannon Town Centre more pedestrian friendly while also continuing to provide for car and bus routes.

Following the adoption by the Shannon MD of the Masterplan, a number of stakeholder briefings on the plan also took place in January.

The project delivery of the Shannon Civic and Community Hub will commence in February while background work and research on the preparation of a URDF application – key to the funding of a number of Masterplan projects – has also commenced.

### Roche Masterplan

Following the grant in early February 2021, of a 10-year planning permission for the phased demolition and remediation of the Roche Facility in Clarecastle, work has now commenced on the preparation of background studies and the consideration of the scope of a future Roche Masterplan. The preparation of the Masterplan will be informed significantly by the preparation and outcome of the Draft Clare County Development Plan and the development and remediation on site. Engagement with Roche and the Clarecastle community on the scope of the proposed masterplan is continuing. In January, background work and assessments of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Directive Assessment commenced.

renewed development of Shannon Town Centre, providing for a shared vision for its future development. The purpose of the Masterplan is to guide the development of Shannon Town Centre into the future, delivering real change to make Shannon Town a more attractive destination in which to live, work and do business unlocking development potential in Shannon Town Centre and guiding its built and economic development.

The Masterplan proposes a multi-dimensional approach to the further development and enhancement of Shannon town centre through proposals for retail, commercial, residential and civic amenities. Among the proposals set out in the Masterplan is the creation of an Innovation Campus in the town centre, the creation of a New Main and an improved Town Square, and the development of a 'Shannon Civic and Community Hub' which

## FORWARD PLANNING

### Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029



The Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 was placed on public display on 10th December, 2021, and will remain on display until the 28th March, 2022, during which time written submissions and observations can be made on the Draft County Development Plan through the online portal or by email or by post.

To encourage engagement in the consultation process an extensive media campaign is ongoing and including media articles and advertisements in the *Clare Champion* and *Clare Echo*, radio interviews and daily community diary announcements over the three week period, as well as a Council social media campaign throughout, and dissemination of consultation event details to the PPN, parish councils and schools throughout the county.

The first of 9 scheduled public consultation events was held in the Pavillion in Lisdoonvarna on Tuesday, 25th January, between 4pm and 8pm which was followed by consultations in Ennis on Wednesday the 25th and Clonlara on the 27th January. Over 200 people attended the events resulting in 47 written submissions being made at the events. Six more events are scheduled for Kilkee, Killaloe, Clarecastle, Kilmihil, Tulla and Newmarket on Fergus over the coming two two weeks as part of the ongoing



consultation process.

Once this public consultation phase closes a report will be prepared by the Chief Executive on the submissions received and this will be submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration.

### Ennistymon Masterplan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects continued work on the preparation of the Ennistymon plan. The steering group met in January, where the Design Team presented developed design options. Public consultation continues to be a key part of the project and the Design Team will be initiating the second phase of consultation in February.



### Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) continued in their partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. The design team, led by the award-winning Hall McKnight Architects, issued their first interim report in January, which encapsulated the baseline research and analysis conducted to this point. The Design Team also a report on the findings of the first stage of public consultationThe foll. These reports will form the basis for the future development of this project. The design process is due to commence in February and will continue into 2022.



### The Manchester Martyrs Monument

The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush will be repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. Mid-West Lime Ltd have been appointed to carry out the repair works on site. Works on this important monument commenced in mid-January, with the removal of the wrought iron railings for repair off-site. The repair of the stonework will commence in late February.



### The Outdoor Public Space Scheme

With funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the process to procure a multi-disciplinary design team was concluded in January, and the design process is due to commence in February. The delivery of the project will support communities across the county in delivering their cultural offering while enhancing the experiences of those visiting the towns and villages in a Covid-19 compliant manner.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications in January and also gives the year to date totals. In comparison to the same period in 2021, this is an increase in the number of planning applications received of 19 representing an increase of 43% year on year. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 10.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	January 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	63	63
No. of Planning Decisions made	85	85
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	4	4
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	13	13
No. of Section 5 applications	7	7
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	3	3
Submissions received regarding Compliance	39	39

### Planning Enforcement

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning enforcement during January, together with the year to date totals.

LANNING ENFORCEMENT	January 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	11	11
No of Files Opened	6	6
No. of Warning Letters issued	8	8
No. of Enforcement Notices served	1	1
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	0
No. of Enforcement files closed	0	0

## TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

The following is the update for December 2021 and January 2022.

Three estates were taken in charge at Ennis MD Meeting on 7th December, 2021:

- Noughaval Drive, Doora, Ennis.
- Aughanteeroe, Gort Road, Ennis.
- Woodstock Hill, Shanaway Road, Ennis.



Aughanteeroe.



Cluain Liag Ard.

Two estates were taken in charge at West Clare MD Meeting on 18th January 2022:

- Cluain Liag Ard, Miltown Malbay.
- Churchfield, Doonbeg.

One estate was taken in charge at Killaloe MD Meeting on 26th January, 2022:

- Dergview, Scarriff.

The following table shows the current status on other estates.

Housing Estate	Status
Cappahard, Tulla Road, Ennis	The preparation of tender documents for this estate is being finalised by the Taking in Charge Team. It is intended to put tenders up on etenders early in February 2022 on receipt of a favourable response from the Special Liquidators on behalf of IBRC regarding the bond monies.
Shanballa, Lahinch Road, Ennis	A schedule of works required to bring this estate to Taking in Charge standard is being compiled by the Taking in Charge Team.
Cluainin, Shannon	A Contractor is currently on site carrying out remedial works in order to open the permanent link road between Inbhear na Sionna and Cluainin estates in Shannon, and to close the temporary access road from Cluainin to Cronan Grove/Cronan Lawn.

We continue to monitor the progress on new housing developments that are under construction throughout the county.

## HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

### Clare Holy Wells Project



Pictured are (back row, l-r): Tony Kirby (Holy Well surveyor), Nick Geh (Holy Well surveyor), Michael Houlihan (Holy Well surveyor), James Feeney (Holy Well photographer) and Congella McGuire; and (front row, l-r) Liam Conneally, Director of Service, PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council, and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive.

Clare County Council launched the webpage of the Clare Holy Wells Project to showcase the survey and information on 237 holy wells in the county. Over the past two years surveyors Michael Houlihan and Tony Kirby have undertaken a labour of love, documenting hundreds of Clare’s holy wells. The result is a fascinating survey of a part of our heritage that holds a special place in the hearts of many Clare people. For the first time ever, information on all Clare’s Holy Wells is gathered in one place. The webpage can be searched by region as well as alphabetically. Maps, photographs and detailed information bring the stories of these wells alive.

Survey results can now be found on the Clare Holy Wells Project webpage: <https://heritage.clareheritage.org/category/places/holy-wells> of the Clare Heritage website.

### The Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Manual

The Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Manual has been launched internally in Clare County Council. The manual was developed following Clare County Council staff input, consultation, questionnaire and Gap Analysis, all of which is available in hard copy, on the Intranet and can be viewed as a flip book link below: <https://ccc-sharepoint.clarecoco.ie/planning/Shared%20Documents/Conservation%20-%20Heritage%20%20Biodiversity/Biodiversity/20220120%20Clare%20County%20Council%20Biodiversity%20Manual%20January%202022.pdf?csf=1&e=gTYdnC>

Clare County Council Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines provides advice and practical guidance to Clare County Council on how to implement best practice measures and adapt our work practices for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity. This is not an exhaustive document and is intended to give Clare County Council an overview of the importance of biodiversity, the legislative and policy context and how Clare County Council’s work impacts on Biodiversity. As the legislation, policy and guidance relating to biodiversity is constantly changing, this manual has been designed so that it may be adapted and updated over time; individual documents are provided for various procedures and these will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated as required.

### Clare Heritage Plan funding from the Heritage Council

Two projects were submitted for funding under the Heritage Council funding for County Heritage Plans.

1. A project proposal to undertake a Heritage Audit and to develop a Heritage and Tourism Action Plan for Lisdoonvarna to provide design principals and design solutions for the public realm. The aim is to ensure that an informed, evidence based and agreed community heritage plan and that heritage led regeneration will inform future planning and guide future investment.
2. The second proposal under this fund is to provide a Clare

Community Archaeology Scheme to raise awareness of Clare's archaeology among landowners and community groups, promote best practice while collaborating with relevant agencies and to safeguard and conserve archaeological monuments.

### Heritage Grants

The Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2022 is now open for applications. The Heritage Council have announced the opening of their Community Grant Scheme 2022 and have allocated €1.5 million to the scheme. The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections, or objects (including buildings).

Closing date for receipt of online applications is 5pm, Wednesday, 16th February, 2022. Online applications at: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2022>

### GLAS Traditional Farm Building Grant Scheme 2022

The Heritage Council, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, GLAS Traditional Farm Building Grant Scheme 2022 is now open for online applications.

The principal objective of this grant scheme is to ensure that traditional farm buildings and other related structures that contribute to the character of the landscape and are of significant heritage value are conserved for active agricultural use. Closing date for receipt of completed online applications is 5pm, Tuesday, 22nd February, 2022. Online applications/grant criteria at: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/traditional-farm-buildings-grant-scheme>

### Conservation and Built Heritage

The application deadline to Clare County Council for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Structures Fund (HSF) fund for 2022 was Monday, 24th January. Applications are currently undergoing assessment. Owners will be notified of the results from the middle to the end of March. Buildings on the Record of Protected Structures or within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), where, in the opinion of the local authority, a need for works to enhance the character and appearance of an ACA has been demonstrated are eligible for the BHIS. Buildings considered to be of vernacular significance, as well as buildings with historic shopfronts are eligible to apply for the HSF, in addition to protected structures.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Property Transactions

The Table (right) shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in January, together with the totals for 2022 to date.

Enquiries to the Property Management Unit on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios, etc. have continued to increase, which is indicative of increasing levels of activity in the property market in the county generally.

The renewal of the Shannon allotment agreements are currently being done with some new allotment holders getting an allotment for the first time. The site is managed in conjunction with the Shannon Allotment Association and works needs to be done as a result of the recent storm.

The closing date for receipt of tenders for the letting of lands was 21st January, 2022, and the tenders are currently being assessed. All of the letting agreements should be in place within two weeks.

Transaction	January 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
Lease of Property / Building	0	0	4
Licence to use property / building	1	1	11
Grazing Agreement for Lands	0	0	22
Deed of Transfer signed	2	2	12
Contract for Sale signed	0	0	3
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	2	2	3
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	0	7
Allotment Agreements signed	0	0	39

## Facilities Management

Work commenced in January on the construction of a new footpath from Áras Contae an Chláir to New Road, which will greatly improve pedestrian access to our headquarters. Neville Civil Works Ltd are on site since mid-January.

We also completed work this month on the removal of a number of large trees to the rear of the car park, with a focus on making them safer and still retain screening for the residents to the rear. The contractors were Cuthbert and Sons Treecare and have completed this work, following good engagement by the Council with the residents on this matter.



In line with the lifting of some of the Covid-19 restrictions, the arrangements for our offices will be reviewed, taking account of national guidance and the need for a careful and measured return to the new normal.

## Casual Trading

The renewal of the annual licences for 2022 has commenced with 8 licences being granted for Kilkee, 7 being granted for Ennis and the licence has also granted for the Killaloe Farmer's Market.

In addition, the first Casual trading licence has been granted for tea/coffee in Ballyalla Lake area for this year.

## Derelict Sites

The Council will be engaging with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government when the proposed grant is announced for people to re-develop vacant or derelict properties into permanent residences. The detail of the proposed scheme is awaited and it is hoped it will provide a stimulus to owners of vacant and derelict properties to take action to return them to habitable properties or to commercial use. This is not to say that there will not be challenges in dealing with derelict sites as we come across many issues which need to be resolved. However, with time and effort, working with owners and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and re-vitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in January and the year to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2021.

Significantly in 2022 to date, three notices for the compulsory acquisition of derelict sites have been issued and published. The properties in question are:

- House at No 4 An Garrán, Mountshannon, Co. Clare
- House at No. 3 St Senan's Terrace, Kilrush, Co. Clare
- House at Cloughleigh Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Derelict Sites	January 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	6	6	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	4	4	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	3	3	4
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	1	1	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	3	3	0

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE



### Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme

The Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has continued to see strong interest. In January, two applications have been approved while five grants were drawn down.

### Mentoring

LEO Clare began 2022 with a continued strong requirement for all of our Mentoring Options including mentoring in Starting a Business, Finance, Digital Marketing, Export Development and Brexit. In January, 16 mentoring applications have been assigned.

### Training

LEO Clare continued to see strong demand for online training support offering during January as our new programme for 2022 began. The main topics of interest to Clare enterprises were Start Your Own Business Programmes, Bookkeeping Vat and Income Tax, Digital Marketing workshops and continued interest in the Trading Online Voucher workshops with over 115 clients taking part.

### Grant Funding

January saw a continued interest in our grant funding with 3 Business Expansion Grants and 1 Agile Fund applications received for our next evaluation committee meeting in early February.

### Local Enterprise Office Clare 2021 Job Numbers

Local Enterprise Office Clare are now supporting over 230 small businesses which provide employment to 1,330.

- 278 new jobs created
- 153 net employment gain
- 3 transfers to Enterprise Ireland.

The net jobs created by Local Enterprise Office Clare takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland. This reverses the net job loss experienced in 2020. Nationally, Clare ranked in the top 25% for net job gains.

Overall across the country Local Enterprise Offices helped to create over 7,400 jobs with a net jobs growth of 2,999.

### Women in Business

This year LEO Clare will be running a pilot programme for Women in Business in Clare. It will be a 9 month programme that will launch in March on International Women's Day.

Seven female run Clare businesses will participate in the programme. This pilot programme aims to work with established businesses owned/managed by women to expand their businesses by increasing employment and preparing for export using the supports offered by the Local Enterprise Office.

## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Upgrade of Roads and Footpaths

Following the completion of the footpath works in the Drumgeely area of Shannon Town the final elements of the 2021 Footpath Contract for Shannon MD are being completed in the Cronin area and in Newmarket-on-Fergus. In all, the 2021 footpath contract saw the upgrade of approximately 2,300 metres of footpaths across the Municipal District, the costs of which were met through the IPB funds and the provision of GMA supports by the elected representatives in Shannon MD. Details for the 2022 scheme are being finalised.



Pictured: Recent works included those carried out at the Town Centre, Drumgeely Hill and Dr Green's Hill, Shannon Town, along with Kilnasoolagh Park and Loughash Road, Newmarket on Fergus.

Significant winter maintenance work was carried out by our crews across the MD during the month. These works included the maintenances of gullies, drains and road edges and are a vital part of Road Safety and the control of surface water during this particularly wet season.

The 2022 Schedule of Municipal District works is currently being drafted and our crews have commenced the ground preparation for the forthcoming programme. The schedule

of works will be presented to elected members at the March meeting of the Shannon Municipal District.

The installation of a new footpath and public lighting has begun in Greenpark, Parteen and is due to be completed in the coming month.

### Town and Village Renewal Schemes

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme in Sixmilebridge was completed in December with final snagging finishing in January. The project, funded through the Department of Rural and Community Development and Clare County Council Development Contributions, has been met with a very positive response from the community in the Town.



Pictured: Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, pictured with Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District, Cllr John Crowe, and members of the community and the project team.

### Town Centre First

The recent announcement that Sixmilebridge will be one of the first towns in the country to benefit from the 'Town Centre First' funding of €100,000 further adds to the ambition and opportunity for the Town. The masterplan funding has been identified to assist in developing a vision for the town centre and immediate surrounds and to scope out a number of key projects for investment and delivery – a great opportunity to develop larger projects for physical rejuvenation in the town centre.

### Other Projects

During January the team in Shannon Municipal District met with various community groups and reviewed capital projects to be delivered during the year. Key projects being progressed at this stage include the town and village renewal project focussed on public realm in Bunratty and the creation of a vital new section of footpath in Parteen.

A tender was issued for the Drumgeely ORIS project with the tender assessment commencing this week.

Shannon MD delivered an upgraded footpath in Shannon

## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Pictured: Works carried out in Shannon Banks under the NTA Active Travel Fund.

Banks during 2021 and we are delighted to report that we have received funding for a mobility plan for Shannon Town, new walkways in the green area of Ballycasey Close and for feasibility/design for routes between Ardnacrusa and Athlunkard Bridge including Clancy's Cross. The MD also received confirmation of funding towards feasibility for a greenway between Shannon Town, Bunratty, Sixmilebridge and Limerick.

At the January Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District our elected members unanimously supported the adoption of the Shannon Town Masterplan. The implementation of the masterplan will continue throughout 2022.

All adopted minutes of the MD meetings are available from our website at: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/municipal-districts/shannonmd/default.html>

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### Strategic Transportation

The Roadworks Programme for 2022 will be prepared as part of the SMDW for 2022 as soon as we receive our full road grant allocations.

### Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) document was approved by the National Transport Authority (NTA) Board during the summer of 2020. The LSMATS public consultation, to which all Members were invited, was launched by the NTA on 2nd September, 2020, and was on public display for an 8 week period up to 30th October. There were over 112 submissions during the process which the NTA have considered. A presentation was made by the NTA to the Physical Development SPC in February 2021. The NTA are currently reviewing the draft LSMATS document.

### Connecting Ireland

This project commenced in 2021 and is being led by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the project is to improve the public transport service provision in Clare by improving scheduling, dealing with gaps in the service and by introducing new public transport routes. Liaison and information sharing has commenced between the NTA and Clare County Council Municipal Districts and Road Design Section to support the NTA in a comprehensive rollout of the project. The local link from

Kildysart to Kilrush has been rolled out during 2021 as part of this project by the NTA.

### Active Travel Programme 2022

Funding for the Active Travel 2022 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on 24th January, 2022. The total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,298,000.

### Public lighting

Cork County Council published the tender for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare and four other counties on 1st October, 2020. Following the successful conclusion of the procurement process, a contractor has been appointed as the Design Build Works Contract for this regional project. At present 46% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

For the benefit of Councillors, the following are the options available to facilitate reporting of public lighting faults:

- Internet: Direct reporting on our website – <https://enerveo.com/report-a-fault/republic-of-ireland/>
- Phone: Enerveo (Formally SEE Airtricity) dedicated call centre at 0818-372772
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority's website or contact number. <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight/>

### Road Works Programme and Operations

#### Road Design Office

#### Current Projects: January 2022

It should be noted that this monthly project update is relevant only to the current period and the milestone progressions during that period.

#### TII Road Safety Projects

A progress meeting with the TII was held on 19th January, 2022.

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p><b>For the N85:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary and this is being progressed by the TII through their consultant.</li><li>• The TII are of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd junction should incorporate Active Travel Strategy and plan for the wider area. The RDO are reviewing the current designs to incorporate these elements.</li></ul> <p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.</li></ul>

TII HD 17 Sites	<p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the N67:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 &amp; N67/L1016 now completed, conceptual design for N67/L50222 and N67/L50221 are completed and Feasibility Report is being developed. Conceptual designs progressing for N67/L1022 and N67/1016.</li> <li>Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. A comprehensive traffic and pedestrian survey was undertaken in early August, a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been initiated and a preliminary design report is being prepared for submission to TII.</li> <li>The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility has been developed. A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for this junction has being included with Minister Place.</li> </ul>
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### Low Cost Safety Schemes 2021

- An application for 2022 LCS Schemes was submitted to the Department of Transport in October 2021. Grant allocations for 2022 are expected to be announced shortly.

### Other Projects 2021/2022

Project	Progress Update
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction works for 2021 are completed.</li> </ul>
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	Works are progressing at Radisson Blu. The bus shelter in Newmarket on Fergus is delayed due to supply chain issues with the NTA's Bus Shelter supplier and will now commence in Q1 of 2022.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.</li> </ul>
Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2022. Collaboration with IT & GIS has also commenced to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.

### Bridge Rehabilitation

2021 Bridge Rehabilitation grant was €687,000. The total grant money was claimed in 2021 for bridge repair

- AA Screening: Currently Preparing Tender Documents for 2022 Bridge Projects.
- Bolooghra Bridge: Initial survey complete, Tender documents for consultancy issued and returned, currently being assessed. Consultant appointed. Contractor appointed. NIS completed, environmental issues to be resolved prior to commencing works.
- Killestry Bridge: Contractor on Site, works 80% complete.
- Wooden Bridge Springfield: Meeting to be arranged with Waterways Ireland for February.

- Application for 2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Grant submitted to the Department of Transport.

### Health and Safety

In December 2021 the Health & Safety Team completed an Internal H&S Audit of each Directorates Compliance with the Clare County Council Occupational Health & Safety Management System with actions assigned to the responsible line managers.

The Health and Safety Team completed their Schedule of Workplace Risk Assessment and Safety Statement reviews and their Programme of Safety Inspections in accordance with the revised CCMA Local Authority Services Framework and the Targets set out in the Annual Safety Report 2022.

Clare County Council has adopted the LGMA/LASOG Traffic Management Guidance Manual and training on its use and implementation has been delivered to Traffic Management Designers and Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks Cardholders by the Health and Safety Team. Monitoring of the revised Traffic Management Guidance commenced from 1st June, 2021, with focused Inspections of Traffic Management arrangements at Roadworks. The new traffic management system is mandatory from 31st December, 2021.

The Clare County Council Annual Safety Report 2021 is being compiled in January 2022 in order to evaluate the Health & Safety Performance of the organisation and set Health & Safety Objectives for continuous improvement in Health & Safety during 2022.

## General Design Office

### Block 2, Ballymaley Business Park, Ennis



Design work is completed on Block 2 Ballymaley Business Park, Ennis, and will be issued for Part VIII approval in the coming weeks for the change of use to an Enterprise and Innovation facility to be administered by LEO.

### Ballyallia Lake Amenity Enhancement Works, Ennis



Appointment of the McCarthy Keville & O'Sullivan (MKO), Environmental/Ecological Consultants has been made and they have commenced numerous surveys to the lake and surrounding area. It is expected that this work along with associated reporting will be completed in September 2022. Design work has commenced on the proposed enhancement works based on the 2020 Master Plan completed by Barefield Tidy Towns.

### The Lane, Cappahard, Ennis

Works on the new footpath at The Lane, Cappahard, part of the Active Travel Programme 2021, are now complete. Works included the upgrading of the surface water network, new kerbing, footpath, new boundary wall, new public lighting and

associated signage, landscaping and tactile surfaces to the pedestrian crossing.



## Town and Village Renewal Schemes

**Barefield** – JF Building & Civils was appointed as main contractor and works began on site on the 20th September, 2021, and are progressing in accordance with the approved programme of works. Works to conclude in February 2022, with only minor works items to be closed out.

**Corofin** – topographical survey finalised and on file. Preliminary design investigations ongoing.

**Sixmilebridge** – Coir Infrastructure appointed as main contractor. Construction works started in August 2021. Works concluded December 2021. Final accounts and payments currently being agreed and finalised.

**Parteen** – topographical survey concluded and preliminary design proposals ongoing.

### Áras footpath

Works commenced 24th January on a new pedestrian footpath alongside the main entrance road to Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis. This infrastructure will facilitate safe pedestrian access to the Áras car-park. Work involves new drainage, ducting and paved block footpaths and kerbings. Works are due to be complete at the end of February.



## Surveys

- CPO and APE lines set out via GPS on Killaloe Bypass, as per request from Capital Projects

## Siteworks

- Old Rectory, Mountshannon – Electrical contractor due on site to make cable to meter box safe, in advance of plumber servicing boiler and gas tanks.

## Mapping

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass - ongoing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing
- Land Registry Issue map prepared for CCC wayleave on Land Transfers at Laghile, Cratloe

## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Members should note that while perhaps not mentioned in this report, there are a number of other smaller projects at various stages of progress that we are advancing. The key updates to a number of our major projects during January are as outlined below in progress follows:

### Cloughaninchy Flood Relief Scheme

Landowner agreements are currently being finalised after which we will then be able to engage with the OPW regarding the necessary funding for the Detailed Design and Appointment of a Contractor. Assuming a timely positive outcome, we would be hopeful of bringing the works to construction stage at the earliest juncture.

### Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

The final works on the snag list are now complete and the site is ready to be handed back to Clare County Council. The restoration of the public footpath and kerb line along the Quin Road was completed last week. The contractor also installed bollards to enable the riverside walkway to be opened safely and will allow us to complete the additional features of the riverside walkway. Work is continuing in consultation with the OPW and our consulting engineers on updating the series of Flood Maps for the area which will detail the benefiting areas and inform the Insurance Industry accordingly.

### Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)

We are still awaiting the An Bord Pleanála decision regarding confirmation or otherwise, of the CPO following the Oral Hearing which was in June 2021. A decision is expected from the Board in the coming month or so and this will inform our next course of action in relation to the overall project.

### Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

Further to completion of AA screening and consultation with DAU (National Parks and Wildlife Service), we will shortly be in a position to advance the works required to restore the original pathway which has become overgrown and somewhat impassable in recent years. As well as clearing vegetation and overhanging branches, the walking path from Gillogue bridge to the Shannon will be resurfaced. These improvement works will ensure that this amenity is preserved for the continued recreational benefit of walkers and runners alike. Clare County Council will be commencing the works shortly, with branch removal being completed as a priority in advance of the bird nesting season. Added value arising from these works will be less vehicular traffic on the Garraun Road leading to a reduction in risk to pedestrians and cyclists there and less nuisance and inconvenience due to indiscriminate parking to the local farmer and landowner.

Members will be aware of the wider proposal for a Greenway/

Blueway from Limerick City to Scarriff. This will of course require more extensive environmental assessment as part of that project development. TII has allocated funding in the 2022 budget which will enable this project to be progressed through the initial stages of development. The works as proposed would be completed as an interim measure in advance of this wider proposal.

### Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Following Ministerial approval at Christmas time, the Project Management Office are progressing with the appointment of the Main Works Contractor, John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd. Subject to the provision of some requested documentation, it is envisaged that the Letter of Acceptance will be issued in the coming week or so. The commencement of this significant infrastructural project is expected to progress on site in early Spring 2022.

In tandem, the Project Management Office have now also reviewed and assessed all tenders received for the Site Supervisory roles/Resident Engineering Staff as required for the Main Contract. The detailed tender report, assessment and recommendation has been issued to Department of Transport for their approval to progress with the appointment of the Most Economic Advantageous Tender. The award and appointment of this consultant is expected to be completed over the coming weeks and in advance of the proposed Main Works Contract commencing on site. Other works ongoing include:

- The electricity diversion works continue to be progressed by the ESB and its contractors with traffic management and power outages being co-ordinated with all affected residents and landowners. Due to the aftereffects of Storm Barra, there has been some minor delays to the completion of the remaining works, however these are due to be complete in the coming weeks.
- The advance works contractor, Coir Infrastructure Ltd returned to site in early January and have completed all the remaining works. This has now concluded their Advance Works Contract with us.
- The results are awaited from the detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works carried out on site in 2021. Following the provision of these results to Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd the final reports can be prepared and the public presentation organised which is expected to take place in the coming months.
- One further case is down for Arbitration hearing on the 3rd & 4th of February 2022 with the remaining Land Acquisitions progressing by agreement with Clare County Council and its agents.

The Project Team are looking forward to 2022 with the anticipated commencement of the Main Works Contract, which,

when complete, will deliver a much-improved quality of life for residents of both Heritage towns and surrounding communities of East Clare and North Tipperary whilst providing a much-needed boost to the local economy and tourism sector of the region.

A Flythrough Animation of the project has recently been uploaded to the Clare County Council webpage: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/killaloebypassflythrough/>

### **Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme**

The site investigation contractor has re-mobilised to site and completed several boreholes on the outskirts of the town. Boreholes along Marine Parade and Strand Line will be carried out over the coming weeks. Option Assessment for the Victoria and Well Streams continues to progress with damage calculation and cost benefit analysis now underway. The consultant JBA, will begin the same process for Atlantic Stream in early February. Following recent liaison between JBA and the OPW Coastal Division, the intricate wave overtopping model is now complete and many of the different storm scenarios have been run. This will now allow both the Hydrology and Hydraulics reports to be finalised and issued for review. Progress on the scheme and upcoming works is also available on the project website at [www.kilkeefrs.ie](http://www.kilkeefrs.ie) alongside associated scheme literature and our project information video.

### **Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)**

This matter is still before the Courts with a Hearing date of mid July 2022. If favourable, we will be in a position to move forward with this important project to include further Surveys, Geotechnical Investigations, Detailed design and engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

### **Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme**

Negotiations continue with the main Landowner involved. Following anticipated successful negotiations, we will be in a position to appoint a successful contractor and complete the works at the earliest juncture.

### **N19 Shannon Airport Access Road**

Following the completion of the Public Display & Public Consultation of the Preferred Option for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme in late 2021, the observations received have now being considered by the Project Team with the issue of the Phase 2 Gate Deliverables Report to TII.

The Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage has commenced which will see the preferred option being developed technically and environmentally, to identify and mitigate Scheme impacts, to establish land-take requirements and to progress the scheme through to the Statutory Processes Phase 4. Phase 3 is expected to progress up to mid-2023. The

Design Team are currently assessing the information requirements so that the necessary scoping surveys (Topographical, Archaeological, Traffic & Transport etc) can be developed and procured during this Phase.

Following the Wintering Birds Season, Priority Geotechnical Ltd are scheduled to return to site in early April to complete the remainder of the ground investigations. Following completion of the slit trench works on site, laboratory testing and analysis of excavated material is now progressing. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website [www.shannonaccess.ie](http://www.shannonaccess.ie)

### **N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme**

Funding of €100,000 has been allocated by the TII in their 2022 Budget to advance this project. To this end, a meeting took place earlier this week between Clare County Council, the Mid West Regional Road Design Office (MWRRDO) and the TII Inspector with a view to advancing the appointment of a consultant at the earliest juncture. Data Gathering from previous work done on this project is now ongoing and a Heat Map of the areas of concern is being developed. This will inform the Project Brief and the scope of the works with the intention of going out to Tender in April/May followed by the appointment of the successful Tenderer in late June/July.

### **Piers and Harbours**

Clare County Council were successful in obtaining funding of €319,200 under the Fishery and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2021 (75% of Project Cost). 9 no. projects were completed under this scheme in 2021, at the following locations:

- Bournapeaka Pier (Ballyvaughan)
- Doolin Pier
- Seafield Pier (Quilty)
- Carrowmore Slipway (Doonbeg)
- Doonmore Pier (Doonbeg)
- Carriagholt Pier

The Council contribution of 25% brought the overall budget in this area to €400k for 2021 with all projects now complete, and the grant payment recently received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. We will now work with our colleagues in the Areas to identify potential schemes which can be submitted for funding in 2022 and the Members assistance in this regard would be welcome.

### **Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)**

The Project Team continues to advance this much anticipated project. In January 2022, survey works were completed throughout Ennis Town centre to identify underground services. This was a very important step in the detailed design and for informing tender documents due for issue in coming months. The works were completed ahead of schedule and with minimal disruption to business activity. With regard to procurement

of the main works contractor, the pre-qualification of contractors is ongoing, further to invitation to interested contractors in December 2021. A shortlist will be finalised in early February 2022, following review by the project team.

The Design team and Clare County Council are liaising with Utility Companies and other Stakeholders in the interests of streamlining the construction schedule and ensuring that future utility needs are accommodated where possible. Irish Water will be completing major replacement of foul and storm infrastructure in advance of Streetscape works. Design on this aspect is ongoing. All going well, Streetscape and Irish Water works are expected to commence in mid-2022 further to consultation with business owners and the public, as engagement with key stakeholders and interested parties will be key to the success of this project.

### Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material)

The project has taken a major step forward this month with the conclusion of tender process in respect of appointment of technical advisors for the project. Successful and Unsuccessful letters have been issued, and it is expected that we will be in a position to appoint the successful bidder in the coming weeks. In the meantime, as always, the sites are continuing to be monitored by Council staff, having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA.

### Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

As requested at the December Council Meeting, a briefing was provided to the Members of the Shannon MD at their meeting on January 18th which was informative and well received. Scheme consultant RPS, will run a Hydraulic Workshop in the first week of February to present the model build completed to date. The high-level early options for the main embankments completed in 2021 is being updated to reflect on the most recent topographical survey data and the site investigation results. This will run alongside the overtopping analysis which together will help develop the final embankment design. A further site visit is planned for the end of February involving CCC, OPW, SAA and the RPS Geotechnical team to look at the further developed embankment options on the ground. The wintering bird survey will be ongoing for the month of February after which the RPS ecology team will carry out the Spring surveys for nesting birds and mammals. Maintenance works to the existing SAA embankments is progressing as planned. Further information on the scheme is available on the project website at [www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com](http://www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com)

### Spanish Point Minor Coastal Protection Scheme

The new fencing has been completed along the cliff edge which now brings this project to completion.

### Springfield, Clonlara FRS

The Main Construction works are currently paused on the scheme due to weather and poor ground conditions. However, our subcontractor Minerix have commenced work on the Geophysical survey required and this is expected to take a number of weeks. Groundwater monitoring is being carried out in tandem by Priority Geotechnical Ltd. Environmental monitoring is also being carried out during the suspension to comply with our obligations and protect the habitat. Work is expected to recommence in late March or April 2022 subject to weather conditions.

### Victoria Court, Shallee Drive and Gordon Drive, Ennis Minor Flood Mitigation Works

A new project to our Report this month, I am pleased to advise that funding of €22,000 has been allocated to carry out a Feasibility Study on possible solutions to the longstanding concerns in this area. We will now proceed at pace to identify a scheme and all going well, obtain approval and the necessary funding to carry out the works at the earliest juncture.

### West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)

Following the launch of the 'Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways' by the Government and the Farming Representative Bodies, we have included the requirements of same into our project planning. We have recently written to the 3 main Farming Bodies seeking their inputs as required and we await their response. Clare County Council welcome this initiative and look forward to a positive working relationship with landowners on the development of the West Clare Railway Greenway. The Project Team are finalising the various Route Options Report and Drawings and intend on displaying same during Public Consultation 2 in the coming month or so with a view to identifying a preferred option in consultation with the affected Land and Property owners and their representatives.

### West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)

Following the recent tender competition for the appointment of Consultants, we have issued the Letters of Intent and Regret for Section 2 of the Greenway between Ennis and Ennistymon. Subject to the normal tender conditions being met, we will be able to formally appoint the successful consultants and commence work on the various Route Options, Constraints and Selection report. Landowner engagement and consultation will commence during this process and will be vital to the project's success. In the interim, we would welcome any views or comments to the Project Management Office at [pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie](mailto:pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie) Thank you.

## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Recent Training Courses

All training, including on-station training was suspended from the 28th December 2021 to the 24th January 2022 due to the Omnicron Covid-19 variant. On-station training resumed on the 24th January.

### Fire Station Projects

Custy Construction have been appointed to carry out repair works to roof lights in Clare County Fire & Rescue Training Centre due to an ongoing issue of water leaks. Works have

commenced with an estimated completion date of two weeks.

### Refurbishment of 2 No. second-hand Class B Fire Appliances

Capital Grant Aid Funding was approved for the purchase of up to 4 No. second-hand Fire Appliances. Two suitable Class B Fire Appliances were sourced and purchased from Leicestershire Fire Service and are currently being refurbished at Wilkers Auto Conversions.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	December 2021	Year to Date 2021	January 2022 (Up to 28.01.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	140	900	74	
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	7	78	3	
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	6	71	7	
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	2	4	0	
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	6	46	3	
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	7	46	3	
Number of Commencement Notices Received	27	396	19	
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	2	13	0	

*(Note: In the January Monthly Report, the Dec figures related to 1st to 17th December due to timing of report)*

### Clare Civil Defence

#### Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Munster Club football match in Cusack Park.
- Teenage Disco held in the Queens Hotel as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members of the Drone Team assisted An Garda Síochána with a search of an accident scene in East Clare for a person reported to have been involved in the accident who

may have been injured and wandered from the scene. The reported missing person was subsequently discovered to be safe and well at another location. The team also assisted the Garda Accident Forensics Team by taking stills and video images of the accident site.

#### Members Training & Professional Development

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all training and course activities were suspended at the beginning of December. Training to recommence in February.

## ENVIRONMENT

### An Taisce, IBAL Anti-Litter Survey

The An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League 2021 was published on 4th January. A strong performance by Ennis has placed it 3rd out of 40 towns surveyed. Ennis is also among only 9 towns to be deemed “Cleaner than European Norms”.

Of the 10 locations surveyed in Ennis, 8 received a Grade A with the other 2 receiving a B. The report found top-ranking locations in Ennis were O’Connell St, Tim Smythe Park, Ennis Court House Environs and Ennis Recycling Centre – not only were they very good with regard to litter but also well-presented and maintained.

Ennis Recycling Centre along with other sites named above received a notable mention under the recent IBAL litter survey for 2021 as being well maintained and litter free which is unusual for a managed civic amenity site according to IBAL.

### Environmental Awareness Community Clean Ups (Litter)

Community groups are now invited to register for An Taisce National Spring Clean 2022 at: <https://nationalspringclean.org/>.

### Environmental Campaigns

During January, we promoted several environmental messages promoting good environmental practice.

Campaign detail	Promotion details
<p><b>Green Christmas</b> The Environment Section arranged for the free recycling of Christmas trees from 10th to 15th January, 2022, at Clare’s Recycling Centres. This initiative assisted with raising awareness around the illegal dumping of green waste. It also promoted the use of compost from the composting of Christmas Trees and the associated environmental benefits.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clare Echo Green Clare Page adverts</li> <li>• Clare Champion advert</li> <li>• Clare FM interview – Morning Focus and news item</li> <li>• @ClareCoCo social media</li> <li>• @GreenerClare social media</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Framework Directive</b> Promotion of Community Water Development Fund 2022 and associated virtual clinic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community groups</li> <li>• @GreenerClare social media</li> </ul>
<p><b>Air Quality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted that it is an offence to sell, distribute, advertise, display and burn smoky coal in Ennis and Clarecastle and parts of South East Clare.</li> <li>• Schools were advised to participate in Globe Ireland School Air Quality campaign/initiative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert</li> <li>• @ClareCoCo social media</li> <li>• @GreenerClare social media</li> <li>• Green Schools were notified</li> <li>• @GreenerClare social media</li> </ul>
<p><b>Litter – PPE</b> Littering of facemasks was highlighted and the why it is important to dispose of PPE correctly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert</li> <li>• @GreenerClare social media</li> <li>• @GreenerClare Facebook advert</li> </ul>
<p><b>An Foram Uisce webinar</b> Promoted the Water Forum webinar due to take place on the 3rd Feb. This webinar will discuss how the gap can be bridged between the national policies and plans and the desire among citizens to deliver outcomes for the natural environment: <a href="http://www.crowdcomms-ltd.reg.crowdcomms.com/water-forum-river-basin-management-plan-webinar">www.crowdcomms-ltd.reg.crowdcomms.com/water-forum-river-basin-management-plan-webinar</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• @ClareCoCo social media</li> <li>• @GreenerClare social media</li> <li>• Clare PPN</li> <li>• Community groups</li> <li>• Clare County Council staff</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dog Owner Responsibility</b> The following message relating to dog control was promoted: “Don’t let your dog roam and poo in public places.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert</li> <li>• @GreenerClare social media</li> </ul>

## Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific team to date in 2022:

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	January	2022 to date
Planning applications (Domestic)	24	24
Planning applications (Large Developments)	0	0
Planning applications (Forestry)	2	2
Planning applications (Agriculture)	0	0
Inspection of Section 4 licensed premises	0	0
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	4	4
Pollution complaints received	10	10
Warning & advisory letters issued	0	0
Enforcement actions (\$12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0

## Laboratory & Technical Support

During January, data and statistics for return to the EPA are compiled and uploaded to the EPA data portal, EDEN. The data includes all monitoring, which Clare County Council Environmental Laboratory undertakes that is not covered by the Irish Water Service Level Agreement. Any queries in relation to the data are fielded from the Environmental Protection Agency with all data uploads to be completed and queries answered by the second week of February.

Below is a table of the major sampling programme undertaken by Environmental Scientific staff based in the Environmental Laboratory in Áras Contae an Chláir and in the Municipal Districts. In addition, there would be a number of samples taken for historic landfills, closed landfill licencing, for compliance with Civic Amenity Site operations and pollution complaints.

Summary of sampling for 2022	
Category	Projected for 2022
Public Water Suppliers	690
Public Group Schemes	205
Private Group Water Schemes	57
Private Licenced Wastewater Plants	60
River Samples	384
EPA Licenced Wastewater Treatment Plants	742
EPA Certified Wastewater Treatment Plants	122
Non-Certified Wastewater Treatment Plants	7

## Gardening

### Christmas Tree Recycling

In the first 2 weeks of January 550 Christmas trees were dropped to our Civic Amenity Sites in each Municipal District and the Gardening Depot in Ennis. Christmas trees were delivered to Inagh for a bank stabilization project where active erosion was taking place in the Upper Inagh River Catchment. This is a collaborative project with Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO). All appropriate assessments have been carried out by LAWPRO. The remainder of the trees will be shredded at Inagh Central Waste Management Facility.



### Landscaping Project

Gardening works have commenced at Inagh Central Waste Management Facility where additional white thorn trees will be planted along with pollinator friendly native wildflower areas. This will enhance the natural biodiversity of the entrance avenue and will compliment additional pollinator and perennial planting that will be carried out as the planting window opens.

## Waste Management

### Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

Liner repair works have been completed and the next phase of the project is progressing well. Screening of on site material is ongoing and is being used for the covering and capping of the exposed liner on the slopes. The integrated wetland cells are also being formed.



### Doora Landfill Men's Shed Group

The men's shed group in Doora are now able to meet more frequently following the lifting of restrictions. They have already made a number of bird boxes which have been erected on trees around the site. They are also continuing with the development of their garden area and have recently planted a number of apple trees.

### Bottle Banks

#### Kilrush

Following repair and installation of a fence to the wall of the Kilrush Bottle Bank Site at the Town Centre Car Park, the site has now reverted back to the original "skip type" site where port-holes in the wall are used. The standalone bottle banks have been removed from the area.

#### O'Callaghan's Mills

The O'Callaghan's Mills bottle bank site has now been relocated from the side of the R466 road to the nearby grounds of O'Callaghan Mills GAA Club.

## Waste Enforcement

### Solid Fuel Inspections

Targeted inspections continued throughout January relating to compliance with the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012. Inspections of both premises and of delivery vehicles are currently ongoing.

### End of Life Vehicles

Prosecution proceedings have been initiated against the suspected importers of Specified Vehicles throughout Co. Clare. The summons' have been issued and a sitting will be before the District Court at the end of March. The Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) has supported this process.

### Suspected Major Producers of Packaging.

Under the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014, as amended (S.I. 282), businesses who place more than 10 tonnes of packaging on the Irish market and have a turnover in excess of €1 million must either register with Clare County Council or register with the approved body, Repak Ltd.

In January, one further business joined Repak as a result of engagement with the Waste Enforcement Section. Further engagement with Suspected Major Producers will continue.

### Waste Facility Permit Inspections

Waste Facility Permit (WFP) Inspections were carried out at a number of larger Car Dismantlers to ensure compliance with their WFP's. This is an inter-agency inspection with WERLA.

### Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter related complaints in January. A total of 108 complaints relating to litter and waste were received in January. All of these are currently being followed up and appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

### Legal Proceedings

Clare County Council have initiated legal proceedings against landowners for the holding and disposal of waste in a manner likely to cause Environmental Pollution. We have also taken action against individuals for non-payment of fines.

Fines and Directions issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, As Amended and Litter Pollution Act 1997, As Amended. A total of 3 Notices were issued under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 in January. We also issued 10 litter fines in January. A total of 2 litter fines were paid in January.

### Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental inspections RMCEI 2022

Clare County Council are currently drafting the 2022 RMCEI inspection Plan for Submission to the EPA. This will detail the number of inspections to be carried out by Environment staff and will outline the collaboration with external agencies targeted to achieve Environmental compliance on Air, Water, Waste and Noise. The National Environmental Enforcement Priorities for 2022 has been set by the EPA based on consultation by NIECE Steering Committee; CCMA representatives; Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Housing, Planning, Local Government and Heritage; WERLAs and LAWPRO.

### Water Safety

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has recently appointed Clare McGrath as the new Chair of Water Safety Ireland (WSI). Clare is the Water Safety Development Officer with Clare County Council since 2014.

## WATER SERVICES

### Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Section of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement and the 2022 Annual Service Plan with Irish Water. All protocols and working procedures relating to Covid-19 are being adhered to in the delivery of the service.

### Water Services Operations

#### Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity/work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 17th December, 2021, up to and including 21st January, 2022. The figures do not, however, reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 18 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 246 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received
- 143 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 25 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. These were for burst watermains and ESB power outages.

#### Water Operations

In the **Mid Clare Area**, outages occurred at the following locations:

- Sandfield DMA – Burst Watermain
- Gort Road Industrial Estate – Cross Connection – Increase supply options
- Ballyline Meter Install - Ennis
- Crusheen Valve install & Leak on Tulla Road
- Victoria Court Lahinch Road – Burst Watermain
- Ballybeg area – Burst Watermain.

In **West Clare Area**, the following outages occurred:

- Watermain burst repairs at Doonmore x 3, Baltard x 2, Annageeragh, Killadysert, Bansha, Milltown Malbay, Carrowmanagh, Cahermaan, Cloonyogan, Bellharbour, Newtown and Main Street Ennistymon.
- Unplanned Electrical fault power outage at Killadysert.
- Planned ESB outages at Knocknagaroon, and in the Lisdoonvarna – Corkscrew Hill area.

A number of outages occurred in the **East Clare Area** as follows:

- 15-12-21 Burst Watermain O Briensbridges
- 17-12-21 Burst Watermain Parteen
- 17-12-21 Burst Kilkishen line
- 17-12-21 Burst Sixmilebridge Bridge

- 20-12-21 Burst Watermain Ardnacrusha
- 21-12-21 Burst Watermain Parteen
- 22-12-21 Burst Watermain Mountshannon
- 23-12-21 Burst Watermain Sixmilebridge
- 23-12-21 Burst Watermain Parteen
- 24-12-21 Burst Watermain between Larkins Cross and O Connors Cross
- 31-12-21 Burst Watermain Sixmilebridge
- 02-12-22 Burst Watermain O Briens Bridge
- 06-01-22 Burst Watermain Killaloe
- 08-01-22 Burst Watermain Shannon
- 10-01-22 Burst Watermain Kilkishen
- 11-01-22 Burst Watermain Kilkishen.

#### Water Conservation

In January, the Leakage Find Crews continued water conservation activity in Shannon, Cratloe, Kilkishen Crusheen District Metering Areas (DMAs) and the Sandfield Area in Ennis.

The Find & Fix Crews concentrated activities in West Clare with leaks repaired in Kilkee, Doonbeg and Ennistymon DMA. Leak detection works are currently taking place in Drumellihy Doonbeg,, Bealaha and Lislanahan DMA's.

#### Wastewater Operations

The Stehlar wheel in Tulla WwTP was repaired and reinstalled. The plant is now back up and running at full capacity. The Waste Water Operations crew successfully managed to keep the plant operational and compliant during the period that the wheel was out of commission.

### Irish Water Capital programme

#### Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant

The new scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant near Skagh Point, a new rising main, additional storm storage and upgrade of the existing Francis St pumping station. Construction works have commenced on the site of the new plant. Completion of the scheme is due in mid-2023.

When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near Skagh Point.

#### Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme

This scheme consists of a new pumping facility at Quay Road and new rising main from Quay Road to connect to the Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant inlet.

The tenders were assessed and a recommendation made to the Irish Water approvals committee. It was approved by Irish Water in mid-December. Construction works are anticipated to start on site in March 2022 and the project is programmed to be completed within 9 months. Temporary traffic management

will be required at various times on Quay Road and on the R458 northwards to the Killadysert Road junction area.

### Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannor wastewater treatment plant and the new pumping station is on-going. EPS is the main Contractor. The scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing outfall. Installation by directional drilling of the rising main and gravity sewer across the regional road and on the road to the WWTP site took place in December 2021. Works are continuing on the structures at the WWTP and at the new pumping station. In mid January work commenced on the new gravity pipeline in the vicinity of the harbour which will discharge treated effluent to the existing outfall. To facilitate this work a temporary road closure is in place along New Houses Road.

Completion of the scheme is due in early 2023. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the pier in Liscannor.

### Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Irish Water's design team have produced a draft route and site selection report. A letter in relation to the proposed site investigation was issued and SI works to determine ground conditions are programmed for mid February. A pre planning meeting is scheduled for early February. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in late 2023 with completion in mid 2025.

### Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. Draft land and wayleave drawings have been produced and a Solicitor and Land Valuer will be appointed by Irish Water. A site investigation is programmed for late February. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall. Liaison with the Consultants on the Kilkee flood defence scheme is on going so as to identify any conflicts between the two schemes at an early stage and plan accordingly. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by mid 2024 with completion in late 2025. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor.

### Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The draft Feasibility Study Report investigates various options including locations for a new plant in each town or a new combined plant which would serve both towns. Costings have been revised and Irish Water intend to hold a Workshop 2 in late February to discuss the Feasibility Study Report recommendations and determine the preferred solution.

### Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped 400mm diameter rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. The design process is ongoing in relation to storm storage requirements at the treatment plant and level of treatment to be provided. This will determine what additional structures are required at the treatment plant and will therefore influence the proposed layout. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged during Q1 2022. Following planning, approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

### Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Construction works are ongoing on the new waste water treatment plant. Excavations and demolition are continuing and construction of the first of the structures is programmed to commence in early February. Improvements to the existing network are also planned, the extent of which will be determined by surveys of the existing sewers. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.



WWTP excavations for new structures.

### Remedial Action Lists Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

Ward and Burke Construction Ltd have been appointed by Irish Water to undertake the Clare Remedial Action List (RAL) Upgrade contract. The project includes for the upgrade of three plants currently on the Environmental Protection Agencies remedial action list.

1. New Doolough Water Treatment Plant – This plant is the regional treated water source for West Clare covering the large geographical area in the county and the third largest plant by volume produced. The project will modernise the treatment technology at the plant which will allow it to achieve the desired quality of output during events which cause high turbidity at the source. Works are underway at the plant. The intended completion date is June 2022.

2. Corofin Water Treatment Plant – this plant provides water to the town of Corofin. The project will modernise the treatment processes on site which will enable production of water to the desired standard during high turbidity events in the source lake. Works are currently underway with intended completion date of June 2022.

3. Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant – this plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan. The project will modernise the treatment processes at the plant as well as bringing the plant production capacity to the required level. Design work is ongoing and it is expected that construction will commence early in 2022.

### Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. The contract has been awarded and works are due to commence shortly.

### Rehabilitation of Watermains

The following watermain rehabilitation projects are currently programmed:

1. Athlunkard Bridge to Larkins Cross, Athlunkard - replacement of 1,034m of 375/300mm trunk main with a 450mm diameter main will commence Q1 2022.
2. Toberteascain, Ennis – replacement of 75/125mm main with 180mm diameter main and replacement of public side services has commenced.
3. Tullabrack to Gower, Kilrush – replacement of 1847m of substandard 150mm main with 180mm diameter main– 80% completed.
4. Shannon Town, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór -at design stage.
5. Lifford Road, Ennis – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage.

### Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & Storm Tank Upgrade Works

Work at this location includes the construction of a new inlet works and screens, and a new storm tank. The inlet works will provide improved screening of materials coming into the plant to both protect and optimise the downstream treatment process to improve discharge standards. The stormwater tank will allow capture of flow during rainfall events for later treatment through the plant. The work will also involve the construction of a new ESB substation. The works are currently at tender stage. It is anticipated that works will start on the upgrade in early 2022.

### Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

A project has commenced to examine the two wastewater treatment plants serving Ennis to ensure adequate capacity is available to cater for the future growth and development. A flow study is currently underway which will be compared to the desktop assessment of current population equivalent being treated by the plants. The output of this stage of the project is a feasibility study report which will inform the decision on the most appropriate option to develop capacity in the plants. This report is due mid-2022.

### Ennis Drainage Area Plan

This project involves the gathering of all available data on the wastewater network in Ennis and surveying and monitoring of flows in the network. This information will be used to build a hydraulic model of the network. The hydraulic model can be used to model future growth in the town and accurately identify where upsizing of pipework/pumping infrastructure might be required. It will also be used to identify where groundwater is infiltrating into the network adding unnecessary additional loading. It will allow Irish Water to have confidence in obtaining the best outcome for euro spent on network improvement. The project is at tender stage with works commencing in 2022.

### Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 381 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 51 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 330 assets, 203 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 127 assets remaining to be dealt with are divided into the following four categories:

- **Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query ( 27 assets)**

These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed. At present there are 21 assets under further query and 7 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.

- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) ( 43 assets)**

This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from

Local Authorities- 13 assets are with the NSPO for agreement for transfer or to ascertain or if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved Irish Water will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval.

• **Property Registration Authority Ireland ( 1 assets)**

At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.

• **Outstanding assets to be transferred ( 56 assets)**

These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to make a robust case for first registration with the PRAI in the Council's name. These will then be transferred to Irish Water. Irish Water are examining new routes to register assets for which inadequate evidence is available to allow the PRAI to carry out a first registration in the Council's name.

## Rural Water Programme

Works on the replacement of the Ballinruane GWS (Whitegate) Mains has now been substantially completed with road surfacing to be completed once adequate weather conditions prevail. The contractor for the mains replacement of the Dough GWS in Spanish Point has now been appointed with the contract for the works signed. It is hoped to commence these works in the coming weeks with a completion date in April. A contractor has been appointed for Pump Station upgrade works on the Leitrim Shyan GWS with works to commence in early February. Tender Documents are currently being prepared for a section of mains to be replaced on the Ballycar GWS just outside Kilmurray. All of the above works fall under Measure 5 of the Programme which is for the transfer of schemes to the public network and is funded at 100%. A further 3 schemes awarded funding under the '19-'21 programme remain without works completed

–Quilty Seafield GWS, Clohanes GWS and Doonmore GWS.

The Boil Water Notice which was present on the Leitra GWS since 2015 was lifted in early January due to the completion of significant upgrade works on the schemes pumping station and treatment located within. This is much welcome news given the constant presence of E-Coli within the schemes supply during this time and the significant threat it presented to the schemes members.

Although we are now into 2022 we await the invitation of funding bids for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Significant engagement has been undertaken with a number of Group schemes in respect of bid submissions on their behalf.

Clare progressed the transfer of 18 GWS's to the public network in 2021 totalling 84km of network and representing over 50% of GWS's taken in charge nationally. The county with the next highest number of schemes progressed was Cork with 4. Two further schemes have been submitted for Taking in Charge in January, Cloughaun Ballynahown GWS in Lisdoonvarna and Roo East GWS in Ardnacrusha.

The significant number of applications under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme continues with a total of 107 applications received in 2021.

The Rural Water Team continues to work with group water schemes to ensure their members have a robust and sustainable quality and quantity supply of water available to them.

